REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending.

The rejection of claim 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Danna U.S. 5,052,437 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 recites a component for internal placement within a vehicle fuel tank that includes a first housing and a second housing. A first connection member is attached to the first housing. A second connection member is attached to the second housing. The second housing is adjustable relative to the first housing to position the first and second connection members for selective engagement of the fuel tank.

Danna describes vent tube assembly partially disposed within a fuel tank. The vent tube assembly includes a first housing and a second housing, respectively. Both the first housing and the second housing are monolithic components. The office action suggests that a first connection member (not numbered) is attached to the first housing (24) and a second connection member (34) is attached to the second housing (32); however, the referenced connection members are not separate subcomponents attached to the respective housings but are rather integral sections of the respective housing. These integral sections are monolithic to the first housing (24) and the second housing (32), respectively.

Claim 15 explicitly recites a first connection member attached to the first housing; a second connection member attached to the second housing. Since Danna does not teach each limitation as recited by claim 1, Danna does not anticipate claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be reversed.

Claim 16 recites that the first and second connection members each include a projection for seating within depressions formed in respective opposing wall sections within the fuel tank. The depression do not penetrate the wall sections. Danna shows a respective housing 24 (inner vent tube) extending through the wall of the fuel tank. The alleged projection as

suggested by the office action is a portion of the continuous inner tubular member that extends entirely out of the fuel tank and extends at a right angle bend where it couples to an exterior vent tube. Furthermore, the portion of the inner tubular member passing through the fuel tank walls is not in contact with fuel tank but is rather in contact with a sealing member. As a result, Danna fails to show the claimed depressions which do not penetrate the fuel tank walls, nor does it show the first connection member and the second connection member each including a projection that seats against respective opposing wall sections within the fuel tank. Since Danna fails to teach each limitation of claim 16, Danna does not anticipate claim 16.

The rejection of claim 1-14 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danna (5,052,437) in view of Rosseel (6,499,500) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites an assembly for internal placement of a component within a vehicle fuel tank. The assembly includes a first housing having a first projection formed thereon. A second housing is adjustable to the first housing, the second housing having a second projection formed thereon. The component is mounted to at least one of the first and second housings. A spring biases the first and second housings apart. A fuel tank is defined in part by a first wall and a second wall. The first wall includes a depression sized to receive the first projection. The second wall includes a second depression sized to receive the second projection. Each projection is seated within a respective depression. The depressions maintain the integrity of the walls without penetration.

Danna describes a vent tube having a first housing and a second housing. The second housing member (inner vent tube) 24 extends through an aperture in the fuel tank wall for coupling to an exterior vent tube member 21. Unlike claim 1, the second depression is not a depression but an aperture for receiving the inner vent tube 24 therethrough.

Rosseel describes a fuel tank having an air relief valve attached thereto. The fuel tank includes a shell. An add-on element such as a valve is connected to the shell by the means of an intermediate element. The intermediate element couples to the shell by a snap-fit connection. The add-on element includes teeth that snap fasten to recesses in the intermediate element for coupling the two components together. Rosseel provides nothing more than a valve that is coupled to the inside shell of a fuel tank by a snap-fit connection. Neither the assembly of the device to the fuel tank nor the type of fastening means itself has any relation to the limitations of claim 1. Moreover, Rosseel teaches away from claim 1 in that it only utilizes a single connection to for mounting within the fuel tank. The addition of Rosseel fails to teach or suggest a first and second housing having projections on each of its respective ends seated against depressions formed in the walls of the fuel tank. A second projection is neither shown nor described, nor is a second depression formed within the wall shown or described for receiving and seating the second projection therein, as recited in claim 1. The citation of two references that merely show a single end of each respective component engaged against a fuel tank wall and to imply that that the reference teach a first housing and second housing having respective projections that are engaged against a first depression and a second depression for mounting the component within the fuel tank as recited in claim 1 can hardly be said to be combinable to suggest the limitations of claim 1. Neither the combined or individual teachings of Danna and Rosseel teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 2 recites the first and second housings located entirely within the fuel tank. Danna as described above fails to teach or suggest the first and second housing entirely contained within the fuel tank. Rosseel shows a valve contained in a fuel tank. The mounting of the valve is entirely different from that recited in claim 1. The showing of a

valve within the fuel tank to merely suggest that a component can be attached within a fuel tank without showing all the limitations of claim 2 and that from which claim 2 depends does not in itself suggest obviousness. Since Danna and Rosseel fail to teach or suggest the limitations of claim 2 either individually or in combination, claim 2 is allowable.

Claims 3, 5, and 6 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable.

Claim 7 recites a third housing positioned between the first housing and the second housing where the spring engages the second and third housings to bias the second housing away from the first and third housings.

The office action has failed to provide any reasoning or comment as to the rejection of claim 7. Since Danna and Rosseel fail to describe or suggest a third housing, claim 7 is allowable.

Claim 10 recites the first and second projections have a non-circular cross section. As described earlier, the office action has failed to show a second projection as recited. Therefore, claim 10 is allowable.

Claims 11 and 18 recite the first and second projections having an oblong projection. Neither Danna nor Rosseel show or suggest the first and second projections having oblong projections. Moreover, the office action has failed to show a second projection as recited. Therefore, claim 11 and 18 are allowable.

Claim 12 recites the first and second depressions are formed on the first and second plateaus raised from the first and second walls. Neither Danna nor Rosseel show a first depression formed on a plateau of a first wall and a second depression formed on a plateau of a second wall. Therefore, claim 12 is allowable.

Claim 14 recites a first wall defining an access opening with the first and second depressions being horizontally spaced from the access opening. Danna describes an opening in which a housing extends therethrough as opposed to being horizontally spaced from the access opening. Rosseel fails

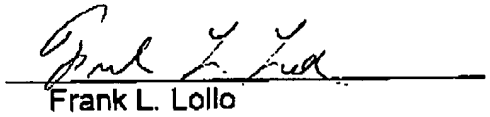
to suggest an access opening. Therefore claim 14 is allowable.

Claim 17 depends from claim 15 and is therefore allowable.

Claim 20 is allowable for the same reasons as those discussed for claim 2.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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